3: Buxton D-5 (1920-1921) 1922 EZ6 Malta EZ6

THE ETHNOLOGY OF MALTA AND GOZO.

By L. H. Dudley Buxton.

(*Department of Human Anatomy, Oxford.*)

	PAGE		PAGE
I.—Introduction	164	VI.—Physical Anthropology ...	177
II.—Geography	165	VII.—Racial Problems	188
III.—History	167		
IV.—Demography	172	Appendix I.—Literature	194
V.—Material and Methods ...	173	Appendix II.—Tables	196

[The figures in brackets in the text refer to Appendix I, Literature.]

I.—Introduction.

This report refers to a part of the material collected in December, 1920, and January, 1921, by an anthropological expedition from Oxford. The expedition was made possible by the generosity of Sir Alfred Mond and a grant from the Mary Ewart Trust. Most of the measurements on crania, on the women, and on about a hundred men and women at Gozo, were done by Mrs. Jenkinson and Miss Moss working together. Miss Russell measured long bones and about half the children.[1] The remaining measurements were done by the present writer. As far as possible all the skeletal material was examined by the present writer, who is ultimately responsible for the sexing. Mr. Hort was occupied in working at the archæological problems. I am indebted to Mrs. Jenkinson and Miss Moss for working out a number of indices on the living, and to Miss Russell for help in tabulation.

We all wish to express our thanks to the Governor of Malta (Field-Marshal Lord Plumer), who gave us official support, took a great personal interest in our work, and smoothed away many of the difficulties; and to the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr. Robertson. Dr. Zammit, the Rector of Malta University and Curator of the Museum, set his unrivalled knowledge of the island at our disposal, and gave us every possible help. Our thanks are also due to various members of the Department of Public Health, who sacrificed busy days in order to take us into villages where they happened to be known; to Count Caruana Gatto, for instructing me in the botany of Malta; and to numerous other friends who did everything in their power to enable us to collect data in Malta.

[1] It is hoped to utilise the material dealing with the long bones and with the children in subsequent papers.

3: Buxton D-5 (1920-1921) 1922 EZ6 Malta EZ6

In Oxford, Professor Arthur Thomson has set the resources of his Department, including a calculating machine, at my disposal, and has helped me continually with advice and kindly criticism. My former teachers—Sir Arthur Evans, Mr. Henry Balfour, Mr. E. T. Leeds, and Professor J. L. Myres—have accorded me in many conversations the combined privileges of a colleague and a pupil. I fear that I have, albeit unwittingly, often pirated their ideas. My colleague, Miss Blackwood, has devoted the greater part of a Long Vacation to helping to finish and prepare this paper for the press before my leaving England, and has performed the laborious task of looking over proofs in my absence.

II.—Geography.

The Maltese archipelago consists of the islands of Malta, Gozo, Comino, Cominetto and Filfola. The two latter are uninhabited, and Comino is practically untenanted. We are therefore only concerned with the islands of Malta and Gozo.

Malta lies about 60 miles south of Sicily and 180 miles north of the African coast. Its maximum length is 18½ miles, its maximum breadth 8½ miles, and its area 95 square miles. Gozo is considerably smaller, and has an area of about 20 square miles.

Geologically, the islands are Late Eocene (3). The eastern and most thickly inhabited part of Malta consists of globigerina limestone, which overlies lower coralline limestone; in the western part these beds are covered with beds of greensand and blue clay or marl, over which lies the upper coralline limestone. The rock is everywhere extremely friable, and is perpetually disintegrating under the influence of wind and rain. Except in one or two places the soil is seldom more than a few inches deep.

The surrounding seas are warm and shallow; a rise of 50 fathoms would connect Malta and Sicily, and a rise of 300 fathoms would join North Africa and Europe and include Malta as a craggy bastion. The shallowest sea, however, lies more to the west. Malta should, therefore, be more correctly described as an outlying pier of an old land bridge rather than part of the land bridge itself. It seems probable that slow, tectonic movements are actually in progress to-day, and that the archipelago is sinking; but it is extremely unlikely that any men of whom we possess traces at present, with the doubtful exception of a few fragments from the Weid Dalam, came to Malta when it was still part of the mainland.

The island is tilted from south to north. The cliffs along the southern coast are high and precipitous, and some of the loftiest parts of the island are close to the shore.

The undercliff here forms a pleasant contrast to the less fertile parts of Malta. Carib trees are not uncommon, potatoes are cultivated on terraces, and the tiny fields are irrigated, as elsewhere in Malta, by little runlets conducted along channels

9: Luke G-5 (ca. 1920-ca. 1960) 1960
EZ6 Malta EZ6

[p. 6]

Preface to the First Edition

I HAVE THE PLEASANT DUTY TO EXPRESS MY THANKS TO VARIOUS friends for help in several directions: to the Chevalier H. P. Scicluna, M.B.E., for many years the Director of the Royal Malta Library, for allowing me to draw on his vast store of knowledge of the records of his native island; to the lamented Sir Themistocles Zammit, most lovable and human of savants, who introduced me, a newcomer to Malta, to those Stone Age wonders he did more than anyone else to reveal and interpret to the world; to Miss Norah Penhaligon for the kindness and patience with which she undertook research on my behalf while I was cut off from libraries and works of reference at the other side of the globe; to Mr George Bonello, M.B.E., of the Lieutenant-Governor's office, for help in other respects.

I have to thank also the following friends for allowing me to use photographs taken or procured by them: Gwenllian, Lady Palmer (garden of Dar il-Lyuni); Major the Hon. James Galizia, C.B.E.; the late Rev. A. Spiteri, O.P. (Tapestry Chamber); Mr Stewart Perowne, O.B.E.; Brigadier W. N. Stokes, O.B.E., D.S.C.; Mr Charles Zammit, who is following in his father's footsteps at the Malta Museum. By a piquant circumstance the photograph of Dragut's tomb was given me in Tripoli by a member of the once reigning dynasty of Karamanli, whose ancestors were a thorn in the side of the Grand Masters in the last century of their rule in Malta.

My thanks are similarly due to the R.A.F., the Malta Museum, the Malta Government Tourist Bureau and the Director of Public Works, while I owe to the courtesy of the Administration of the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris the photograph of the jewelled hilt of the sword sent by Philip II to Grand Master La Valette.

I have also drawn on the work of Malta's excellent professional photographers, especially Mr E. A. Gouder. Likewise represented are Messrs R. Ellis, the Grand Studio, S. L. Cassar, G. Fürst (women in *faldettas*), all of Valetta; Messrs M. Farrugia of Gozo and Felice of Pawla. The photograph of the Inca monoliths at Ollantay-Tampu in Peru is by Martin Chambi of Cuzco, a Peruvian Indian.

H.C.L.